MINUTES
POLICE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Zoom Meeting
7:00 P.M.
July 9, 2020

In Attendance: Chief Clark
Ken Morotto Jr.
Mary Houle
Todd Russell
Robin Aldieri
Paul Alderucci
Andrew Messana

2 members of the public

Called to Order at 7:04 PM

I. UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES
A. Staffing
Lieutenant Michael Morgan retired effective June 30, 2020. He has been hired by the Newington Board of Education as the Director of School Security. Two officers are currently on light duty due to injury. Two entry level police officer positions and the civilian evidence/property officer position are frozen due to cost saving measures that are in place due to COVID-19 and the possibility of loss tax revenue.

C. Calls for Service January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 compared to same period last year. Total calls were 11,112. Preliminary results show substantial increases in crime.

Breach of Peace up 21%
Burglary up 23%
Domestic Violence up 8%
Larceny up 21%
Car Breaks up 77%
Stolen Cars up 63%
Traffic Stops down 56%
Arrests down 20%
D. Activities
Department community outreach programs have been suspended due to COVID-19.

II. BLACK LIVES MATTER DEMONSTRATION JUNE 4, 2020 REVIEW
The department spent $12,000 in police overtime to cover the demonstration. An unmarked police vehicle sustained approximately $3,000 in damage when the protesters used it as a stage. Contrary to what has been posted on social media, the protesters were not given permission to use the car. The department operational plan and contingencies plan worked well. Having the 6 highway department dump trucks held in reserve as barricades worked out very well especially when the protestors went into the intersection and then marched on Main Street.

III. PROPOSED CONNECTICUT LEGISLATIVE POLICE REFORMS
There are a number of police reform bills that will be considered at a special session at the state capitol. Some of the bills will have a serious impact on the department’s ability to recruit and retain police officers. Some bills deal directly with investigating officers for misconduct. The department has received just 3 officer complaints so far this year.

IV. COMMUNITY OUTREACH
The following is a list of all the departments community outreach programs.
Citizen Police Academy
Youth Academy
Rape Aggression Defense (RAD)
National Night Out
Project Hope
School Resource Officer
Schools-guest readers, criminal investigation presentations, invited to sponsor children for grandparents and special persons day.
Member-Newington Chamber of Commerce
Stuff a Cruiser
Shop with a Cop
Special Olympics
Coffee with a Cop
Police-Community Council

V. CENTER FOR POLICING EQUITY UPDATE
Ivonne Roman is the department’s new liaison from CPE. She is the former Chief of Police in Newark, New Jersey. They are hopeful that the final report will be ready at the end of year. The final report will be made public.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT
Susan Mazzoccoli spoke in support of the SRO at the high school and other programs to strengthen police community relations.

Gail Budrejko had concerns about the proposed legislative reforms and how the reforms will affect the department.
VII. MEMBER COMMENT
Mary Houle introduced the idea of having a headlight/taillight clinic. The department and PCC will research the idea with the hopes of sponsoring a clinic.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Stephen Clark